

for authority to send in inspectors from America to inventory Kim Jong Un's nuclear arsenal, his nuclear technology, and his missile technology. If the answer is "no, we can't do that," or if Kim Jong Un takes evasive measures to try to hide his weaponry, then, we will know, but we will have tried.

I want to thank President Trump today on behalf of all Americans who believe in peace for the successful start of what I hope will be a successful summit and relationship with North Korea.

Thank you, President Trump.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, talks between President Trump and Chairman Kim in Singapore, as we all know, concluded yesterday. Certainly, we are all heartened to see the two leaders engage in a dialogue. We feel much better when both President Trump and Chairman Kim are talking rather than trading insults and military threats. We all want this diplomacy to succeed.

But now that the dust is settling after the Singapore summit, three things are clear. No. 1, Chairman Kim achieved far more than President Trump did. No. 2, our adversaries, Russia and China, have gained while our allies, like South Korea and Japan, have lost footing and some degree of faith in America's reliability. No. 3, the summit was much more show than substance—what the Texans call "all cattle and no hat."

Let me elaborate. In past agreements with North Korea, the United States won far stronger language on denuclearization, and we won specific measures to ensure that North Korea was taking steps in that direction. Of course, even with the stronger language, the North Korean regime repeatedly backtracked from previous American-led agreements.

The joint statement in Singapore includes none of the concrete details that could make an ambitious goal like "complete denuclearization" close to meaningful. Chairman Kim did not even mention his ambiguous comment to denuclearize when he returned home to North Korea. It was absent in all the North Korean press. Often you can tell how a leader feels from what they tell their people, not what they say publicly to the world. In this case, denuclearization was not even mentioned.

Still, President Trump tweeted this morning "there is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea." What planet is the President on? Saying it doesn't make it so. North Korea still has nuclear weapons. It still has ICBMs. It still has the United States in danger.

Somehow, President Trump thinks that when he says something, it becomes reality—if it were only that easy, only that simple. That is what stood in the way of making this meeting more meaningful.

It is not show. It is not verbiage. It is action. President Trump, in his actions, did things that President Kim wanted. I don't know what President Kim has done that we want, other than show up, which was a benefit for him.

President Trump agreed to freeze joint military exercises with South Korea, and he called them "provocations"—right out of the North Korean propaganda playbook—without the knowledge of South Korea or our own military. I guarantee that our military men and women were squirming when President Trump called our joint military exercises "provocations."

These exercises and others that the military conduct around the world are designed to ensure that our service-members are fully trained and ready for action. They are not a provocation, President Trump.

Adopting the North Korean view on American military exercises, which President Trump did, is nothing short of a public relations coup for Chairman Kim. It seems that President Trump didn't even think it through or consult with anybody. You cannot do this stuff on the fly. Saying that the danger from North Korea is over doesn't make it so. Saying that these are provocations makes things worse. You cannot do it on the fly. You need serious thought because it has consequences. If Chairman Kim walked away from these negotiations thinking that it is easy to deal with President Trump, Kim might think: I get what I want, and I don't have to give him anything. That doesn't bode well for the future.

In the final tabulation, after all the pomp and circumstance has faded, it seems clear that Chairman Kim walked away the victor, unfortunately. What President Trump achieved on behalf of the United States is unclear and difficult to certify. What Chairman Kim achieved for North Korea is tangible and lasting.

No doubt, our Republican friends would be up in arms if a Democratic President walked away from a summit with so little to show for it. But, of course, while we haven't heard full-throated praise from our Republican side—their reactions have been kind of lukewarm—it is not close to the criticism they launched at President Obama in similar situations.

In the weeks and months ahead, President Trump and his team need to focus on securing real and enduring concessions from the North Koreans on plutonium and uranium enrichment, on the destruction of nuclear infrastructure, on an "anywhere, anytime" inspections regime, and the unambiguous end of missile testing.

These are the things that make a strong nuclear agreement. Unfortu-

nately, the Singapore summit produced none of them and talked about none of them. We hope that in the future that changes for the safety of America, but, again, the emphasis on showmanship as opposed to substance will not serve America or the prospects for peace well in the long run.

On one final point, congressional oversight and involvement is critical to this process. Secretary Pompeo needs to make clear what the process moving forward includes and what, if any, additional agreements were made in Singapore. Congress needs to learn the terms for any sanctions relief, whether U.S. troop presence in Korea was discussed and whether any agreement will include a halt to North Korea's key missile programs.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, on healthcare. Even as North Korea dominates the headlines, Democrats are going to continue to focus on the No. 1 issue on the minds of most Americans: healthcare.

Insurers in State after State are announcing double-digit premium increases and blaming Republican healthcare policies for the increase. Now, amazingly, the Trump administration is refusing to defend the constitutionality of protections for Americans with preexisting conditions, turning its back on the most popular and most humane advancement in our healthcare system.

Imagine the return of the days when a mother with a child who has cancer can no longer find affordable care for her daughter and the days when hard-working Americans who fall on hard times are made to suffer and denied healthcare coverage, precisely because they need it so desperately. How wrong, how backward, and how immoral that system was, and that is where President Trump wants to take us again.

So we Democrats are going to spend the next few months, including the August work period, focusing on the critical issue of the Nation's healthcare system. We will be trying to get premiums down, costs down, and better healthcare, not the deterioration we have seen under President Trump and the Republican congressional leadership.

We are going to focus on all that our Republican friends have done to drive up the costs of healthcare on average Americans and what we should be doing to reverse that awful trend.

#### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IG REPORT

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, there is the IG report. Tomorrow, the inspector general of the Justice Department will release a report about the Department's handling of an investigation of Secretary Clinton in 2016. We look forward to the report and learning what it has to say.

Now, we hope our Republican colleagues don't take the cynical track of trying to spin the report's contents to somehow sully the completely separate and ongoing investigation into Putin's meddling in the 2016 election. The DOJ IG report is likely to focus on the conduct of the Justice Department and the FBI in handling the Clinton email investigation in the runup to the 2016 election. Mueller was not appointed at that point. He wasn't a gleam in anyone's eye. So what he is doing is totally independent of what happened here.

Furthermore, when the President says "witch hunt" and somehow blames Democrats for this, well, whatever Comey did hurt Hillary Clinton, and he didn't do the same thing to President Trump, which would have hurt him. He released the details of Hillary's investigation—many of us thought he did that wrongly—but didn't release any details of the investigation into possible collusion of the Trump campaign with the Russians.

So this idea that somehow what Comey did and what Mueller is doing was designed to hurt President Trump and Republicans at Democrats' behest is like "Alice in Wonderland"—it is the opposite of the facts. The investigation into Putin's meddling in our elections and any potential associations between Russian intelligence and the Trump campaign is an entirely separate investigation from what happened with Hillary Clinton.

It would be erroneous to try to use the information in the IG report to discredit the special counsel, but we hear rumblings that some of these very partisan Republicans, led by Chairman NUNES, may try to go down that road. We hope they won't be so cynical or so willing to twist the facts inside out and turn truth on its head, all for political gain.

It is crucial—critical—that Special Counsel Mueller's investigation get to the bottom of what happened and who was involved in Russia's efforts to influence the outcome of the 2016 election.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5515, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Inhofe/McCain modified amendment No. 2282, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Toomey) amendment No. 2700 (to amendment No. 2282), to require congressional review of certain regulations issued by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

Reed/Warren amendment No. 2756 (to amendment No. 2700), to require the authorization of appropriation of amounts for the development of new or modified nuclear weapons.

Lee amendment No. 2366 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2282), to clarify that an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority does not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

Reed amendment No. 2842 (to amendment No. 2366), to require the authorization of appropriation of amounts for the development of new or modified nuclear weapons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

#### SUICIDE EPIDEMIC

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to address a public health issue that has left in its wake a trail of tragedy and shattered life. The suicide epidemic has touched all sectors of our society, but the problem is particularly acute among LGBT who have experienced bullying and discrimination at every turn. In the most devastating cases, these teenagers even face estrangement from their own families. That is why today, in honor of Pride Month, I wish to devote a significant portion of my remarks to them—my young friends in the LGBT community.

The prevalence of suicide, especially among LGBT teens, is a serious problem that requires national attention. No one should ever feel less because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. LGBT youth deserve our unwavering love and support. They deserve our validation and the assurance that not only is there a place for them in this society but that it is far better off because of them.

These young people need us, and we desperately need them. We need their light to illuminate the richness and diversity of God's creations. We need the grace, beauty, and brilliance they bring to the world. That is why, as we commemorate Pride Month, my message today is one of love for my LGBT brothers and sisters. It is also a call for action to Americans of all political stripes.

Regardless of where you stand on the cultural issues of the day—whether you are a religious conservative, a secular liberal, or somewhere in between—we all have a special duty to each other. That duty is to treat one another with dignity and respect. It is not simply to tolerate but to love.

The first tenet of my faith is to love one another. The same Man who taught this principle also lived it by His example. In an era characterized by rigid social divisions, He broke down barriers propped up by centuries of tradition and cultural belief. In His teachings, He made no distinction between man or woman, Jew or Gentile, sinner or saint but invited all to come to Him—all. He saw beyond the arbitrary differences of group identity to the inherent worth of the individual. He taught that we were all equal because we are all children of the same God and partakers of the same human condition. This Man loved radically, and He challenged all of us to do the same.

If there were ever a time to show our LGBT friends just how much we love them, it is now. In a world where millions suffer in silence, we owe it to each other to love loudly. That is why I am a strong supporter of Utah's Love Loud Festival, among many other efforts to combat suicide and improve mental health in the LGBT community, which is afflicted by these problems. These young men and women deserve to feel loved, cared for, and accepted for who they are. I don't think they chose to be who they are. They are born to be who they are, and we ought to understand that. They deserve to know they belong and that our society is stronger because of them.

Ensuring that our LGBT friends feel loved and accepted is not a political issue; we all have a stake in this. We all have family or loved ones who have felt marginalized in one way or another because of gender identity or sexual orientation, and we need to be there for them.

On a much broader scale, we need to be there for anyone struggling with feelings of isolation, especially those experiencing suicidal thoughts. By no means is suicide a problem exclusive to the LGBT community. In one way or another, this public health crisis has affected all Americans, regardless of color, class, or creed.

Over the last two decades, the suicide epidemic has taken tens of thousands of lives, with suicide rates rising by as much as 30 percent across the country. The severity of this public health crisis was thrown into sharp relief last week with the tragic deaths of Kate Spade and Anthony Bourdain.

In my home State of Utah, the statistics are particularly alarming. Every 14 hours, a Utahn dies by suicide, resulting in an average of 630 deaths each year. The problem is so acute that Utah now has the fifth highest suicide rate in the Nation.

In addressing this topic today, my heart is both heavy and hopeful—heavy